

March 2007

# FIRST DUE



Franklin County Department of Public Safety  
1488 Franklin St., PO Box 189  
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## Special points of interest:

- \* ISO Study Complete
- \* Web site up and running.
- \* Central Supply for EMS
- \* Wireless Internet for Stations
- \* Aerial Class
- \* Accident Reports

## Inside this issue:

Aerial Class	2
Central Supply	2
Wireless Internet	2
EMS Competency	3
New Team Member	3
Swift Water Team	3
Accident Report	4

## ISO Study Complete

Recently the Insurance Services Organization (ISO) completed a study of fire service offered in Franklin County. This organization sets the protection classification that insurance companies utilize to determine homeowner and business insurance rates. The classification is on a 1-10 scale with 1 being the best. In Franklin County the following are the rating for each department. Company 1 is 5/6, company 3 is 9/10, company 7 is 7/9, company 10 is 7/9. All other companies are a 9. This is the first visit by ISO in over 15 years. If we can lower our property protection class the citizens will see a dramatic decrease in their insurance rates on property. In preliminary discussion with the organization they state that some areas should see an

improvement in classification while others will see no change. Several items were looked at during the visit, they included but were not limited to the following: Water systems, Apparatus, Communication Center, Training Records, and Equipment. It is very important that all apparatus meet NFPA specifications and that companies train regularly and also maintain training records, as these items were extremely important in this visit. If your company needs to know the NFPA specification on any item or needs advice on training or maintaining records please see Bennie Russell or Mike Pruitt at the administration office. Thanks to everyone who assisted in the ISO visit. It may take up to 6 months for the final rating to come back.



## FCDPS Web Site

After much planning the Franklin County Public Safety Web Site is up and running. You can find it at [www.Franklincountyva.org](http://www.Franklincountyva.org) and then go to the public safety link in the top drop down box. Many useful tools can be found there. Some of the items lo-

cated on the site are SOG's, Forms, EMS Protocols, minutes of meetings, response times, volunteer applications for service, pet finder, pictures of your station, maps of service areas, training classes, etc. If your agency wishes to have additional items placed

on the web site please contact Billy Ferguson at the administration office. This could be a valuable tool for the agencies to utilize.

## Aerial Class

Members of the Cool Branch Fire Department and Franklin County Department of Public Safety recently completed a course in aerial operations, held in Martinsville. Kris Shrader, Chief of Company 6 and Martinsville Fire/EMS was the lead instructor. The class consisted of 4 weekends, mainly Saturdays for about 8 hours each day. All students were instructed on basic principals of operations and safety issues dealing with the aerial trucks which would be utilized at various times on the emergency scene. The following depart-

ments were represented in the class: Collinsville, Bassett, Martinsville, Gretna, Cool Branch and Franklin County Department of Public Safety. The following personnel attended the class and became certified: Brad Moles, Steve Hunt, Joe Paduano, Shane Robertson, Bruce Wall, Evan Holiday, Eric Newman, Scott Fulcher, Charles Berger, Geoff Tuck. Bassett also had 4 members, Collinsville 4 members and Martinsville 1. Congratulations to everyone who completed this very important class.



Beginning in July 2006 the EMS agencies started utilizing a central supply for EMS supplies. This was done for several reasons. By doing this the county could make bulk purchases for supplies and by doing this the county recognized a large monetary savings. It also allowed the department to standardize equipment which makes it easier when members from one station are on trucks from another station.

## Central Supply

The supplies are purchased in part with money recouped from insurance companies through the EMS revenue recovery program. If your station is noted to be in need of supplies when performing your daily vehicle check offs, please complete the supply requisition, which you can obtain off of the web page or by contacting your officers or the on duty career captain, and fax it to the administration office

at 483-3086. Your supplies will be delivered to your station within 24 hours of your fax. Please do not create a supply cache at your station as this could impede the idea of maintaining a central supply. If you need an item not listed on the supply requisition, please contact the on duty career captain to inquire if we can obtain it through the program.

## Wireless Internet

As part of the communication changes and upgrades that have been going on for the past two years most fire and EMS stations will have access to wireless internet. A partnership developed between BZX and the county has enabled this to occur. Most stations have already had the internet service connected to the stations and all is left is for the IT department to place security and firewalls on the individual PC. This should be occurring soon

after meetings are complete with the agency Captains and Chiefs to finalize how this is to be done. There are a couple departments that will be unable to have wireless due to location. The ones that are unable to have wireless will have broadband DSL instead. Once this upgrade is complete, the next phase will be to upgrade our reporting software to be a web based program instead of a stand alone system. Please contact your agencies officers

to keep abreast of the progress of this technological advancement.



## EMS Competencies

As you are probably all aware, Public Safety will begin requiring Emergency Medical Service (EMS) providers to complete quarterly skills competencies. Even though the information was released at the February Captains meeting, providers are not required to begin utilizing the competencies until the second quarter (April—June) of this year. The skill competencies required, vary by provider level. Skill competencies are designed to be obtained during training and NOT during actual EMS calls. Providers may be evaluated by any provider

certified at the next higher level of care or by Medical Director approved evaluators. The Public Safety training division will also be hosting skill competency evaluation nights the last month of the quarter at which, OEMS continuing education credits will be offered. If you have further questions, please feel free to contact Mike Pruitt with the training division at 483-3091.



## Swift Water Team

You have most likely read in the newspapers or heard in the TV /Radio media about a proposed water park to be built in Franklin County. The park would be located on Power Dam Road just outside the town of Rocky Mount. Scott Martin, Director of leisure and commerce is heading this project up. The County has partnered with many other state and federal agencies in addition to the public and private

sector to hopefully make this venture a reality very soon. NASACR driver and 2002 Daytona 500 winner Ward Burton is playing a large part with financial support to this project. Along with this the Public Safety Department has been challenged to develop and implement a Swift Water Rescue Water Rescue Team by the opening date of the park. The first organizational meeting will be held on

March 7, 2007 at the administration office. If you are trained or have an interest in swift water please contact Billy Ferguson.




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**"Choose a job you  
like and you will  
never work a day in  
your life."**

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## Welcome to New Team Member

The career division would like to welcome their newest full time employee, Geoff Tuck. Geoff will begin work on March 1, 2007 and will be assigned to station 8 on a Wednesday through Friday shift. He will be replacing Eric Newman who has transferred to the training division and is currently conducting the Emergency Medical Technician—Basic class for the Franklin County High School students. Geoff comes to us from the Gretna Volun-

teer Fire Department where he held the position of Assistant Chief. He is certified as a firefighter 2 and an Emergency Medical Technician—Intermediate. Geoff will be riding with the career captains for a couple days and then will report to his assignment. If you see Geoff out please congratulate him and welcome him to the public safety team.



## VISION STATEMENT

[www.Franklincountyva.org](http://www.Franklincountyva.org)

Franklin County's Department of Public Safety is dedicated to providing emergency services, to include, but not limited to, Fire, EMS, Animal Control and Emergency Management that are, Delivered in a timely and efficient manner by well-trained and dedicated career and volunteer professionals.

## Filing A Medical/Trauma Accident Report

Franklin County Public Safety carries worker's compensation insurance on all of our volunteers in case of an accident while performing their duties. A call must be made to the Public Safety administration office at 483-3091 ext. 6 to report the accident within 48 hours. If the accident occurs during hours when the office is not open, it is permissible to leave a message on the voice mail system for Annette. After the accident has been reported by telephone, there are forms which need to be completed by the injured volunteer and signed by the Chief or Captain of the agency. If the injured volunteer does not miss time from work, they would need only

to fill out the Employer's Accident Report and the Accident/Sickness Report. However, if the injured volunteer is required to miss work time from their regular employment as a result of their injury, then the Attending Physician's Statement must also be completed. These forms can be obtained at the Public Safety Administration Offices or by contacting the on-duty career Captain. It is imperative that ALL forms be completed in a timely manner so that they can be filed with the insurance carrier. Failure to completely and promptly fill out the forms may result in a DENIAL of the claim. For more information, contact Annette Law at the admini-

stration office.

